

Mayor Charles "Skip" Lee called a meeting of the Sterling City Council to order at 6:30 pm on Tuesday, February 18, 2014. Roll call. Present: Aldermen Barry Cox, Retha Elston, Joe Martin, Christopher Schuchard, Lou Sotelo, and John Stauter. Absent: None.

Also present were City Attorney Ron Coplan, City Manager Scott Shumard, Building and Zoning Superintendent Amanda Schmidt, Finance Director Cindy Von Holten, Deputy Fire Chief Mike Dettman, Police Chief Ron Potthoff, and City Clerk Marie Rombouts.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

There was no communication from Visitors.

Alderman Cox made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda, as follows:

- A) City Council minutes of February 3, 2014
- B) Bills and Payroll totaling \$940,373.87
- C) Refer to Plan Commission the City-initiated revision of the Zoning Code regarding rights-of-way
- D) Petition to close streets for Fourth of July celebration by Amazing Grace Church from 7:00 am to 6:00 pm on Second Avenue between Fifth and Sixth Streets

The motion was seconded by Alderman Elston. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Cox, Elston, Martin, Schuchard, Sotelo, and Stauter. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Mayor Lee recognized Officer Jacob Reul for his contribution to traffic safety with the presentation of the Illinois Department of Transportation Achievement Award for 100 DUI arrests. Officer Reul was available for a photo with the Mayor.

Mayor Lee recognized Rufat Rufati and Briella Garcia as recipients of the Saved by the Belt Award. Rufati was struck by a semi and involved in a multiple vehicle collision. Garcia was secured in her child safety seat when her mother's vehicle was struck on the front driver's side. Briella Garcia and her mother, Stacey Janssen, were available for a photo with the Mayor.

Mayor Lee explained that the Proclamation for the Community Read would be set aside for a later meeting.

Deputy Chief Dettman announced the fire truck from Byron has arrived and invited the Council to stop by and see it.

Chief Potthoff informed the Council that the year-end report would be distributed at the next meeting and wanted to forewarn the Council that the number of accidents was up, primarily because of weather conditions at the end of 2013.

Several Council members acknowledged Public Works crews for their diligent service throughout this winter season. Garbage pick-up is on schedule for this week. Citizens were encouraged to clear the snow from around their fire hydrants.

Alderman Sotelo asked if the Council could recognize the Sterling Chess team for their outstanding performance this year.

Mayor Lee recognized all City services for keeping up with the weather conditions and additional fires. Mayor Lee commended the City of Rock Falls for their quick response to an unfortunate situation when the lift station was not working properly.

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned to a Study Session at 6:43 pm.

Manager Shumard began with a presentation on the upcoming budget year. The EAV on property taxes has declined 4.25% over the last two years. Sales tax increased only 1.1% above last year. Income tax was a 4.5% increase instead of a predicted decrease, although this cannot be depended on again because IML predicts it was a one-time event to defer income.

Video gaming has added approximately \$60,000 annually to the revenues.

Fines are reduced because the County is taking more of a cut but municipal fines are increasing.

The proposed General Fund budget is increased by 1%, without the Fire and Police Pensions. These pensions are estimated by either statutory and actuary recommendations. The City usually contributes according to the actuary, which are usually greater, but these contributions keep rising.

Proposed capital projects for the 2014-2015 budget year:

1. Street Reconstruction:
 - a) East Sixth Street between 16th and 18th Avenues
 - b) Fifth Avenue from LeFevre to Miller Road
 - c) Woodburn Avenue from 9th to 11th Streets
 - d) Additional 10 to 12 blocks to be determined
2. Thomas Park: Park District is researching now.
3. Streetscape

4. Public Works Skid Loader
5. Code Enforcement house demolitions and 13 East Fourth Street. Council agreed to work with developer on 13 East Fourth Street to preserve the building instead of demolishing the structure.
6. Compensation and classification study prepared by a consulting firm
7. Fire Department - replace thermal camera – hope to obtain grants
8. Police Department replace three squad cars, one detective vehicle, and 6 mobile repeaters for radios

Police and Fire Contracts are both being negotiated. Police expired last April and the Fire expires this April. These contracts will make a difference on the proposed budget.

Manager Shumard presented revenues and expenses for the general budget. The amended budget for 2013-14 is \$183,337 short, primarily due to overtime in the Fire Department. He explained the unusual circumstances of five firefighters being unable to work and necessitating overtime from other firefighters.

Next year's budget has a gap of \$82,201.

The next budget meeting should be held after the next regular Council meeting.

The meeting closed at 7:45 pm.

Marie Rombouts
City Clerk